



# NEWS RELEASE

**Today's Date:** Wednesday December 19, 2007 -- 07-053  
**District:** District 2 - Redding  
**Contact:** Michael Mayor  
**Phone:** (530) 225-3214

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### Take it Slow in the Cone Zone

**REDDING** – The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) District 2 and the California Highway Patrol (CHP) remind motorists to slow down and focus while driving through highway work zones.

The December 14, death of Caltrans Maintenance Worker Matthew D. White on Interstate 5 in Elk Grove, marked the third loss Caltrans has suffered in work zone fatalities during the past two and a half months. There have been 170 Caltrans workers lost in the line of duty since 1924 – Eleven from Redding's District 2.

“This is certainly a very sad time at Caltrans and a terrible reminder of the personal safety concerns involved in the work we do,” wrote District Director Brian Crane, in a letter to his staff.

Caltrans required all of its highway workers to return immediately from the field and review safety procedures and practices following Friday's loss of another highway worker.

The Federal Highways Administration web site statistics and facts page reports, an average 1,068 work zone fatalities and 40,000 injuries occur nationally in highway work zones.

Caltrans is asking drivers to slow down, take their time and avoid distractions while traveling, especially when traveling through work zones.

(The California Department of Transportation and the California Highway Patrol are working together on this important safety issue. Caltrans invites the media to a “Day in the Life” ride along with a highway crew on the job.)

###

For more information on the December 14, work zone accident involving Matthew D. White please contact Mark Dinger, District 3 Public Information Office 530-741-4572

**NOTE:** An electronic version of this news release is available on the Internet at the following web address: <http://caltrans2.info/roadinfo.htm>

